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IMMEDIATELY

COURSE ENTITLED 'LAW AND SOCIETY'
OFFERED THIS FALL AT UNIVERSITY

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MISSOULA--

A three-credit course entitled Law and Society will be offered fall quarter at the University of Montana in Missoula as part of the undergraduate curriculum.

According to Robert E. Sullivan, dean of the UM Law School, the course is not intended as a prelaw course, but is structured to provide students with a general background on the operation of the legal system, including the nature, function and limitations of the law.

The course is open to sophomores and above and is cross-listed in political science, philosophy, economics, social work and sociology. It will meet from 3-4 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays, with small discussion groups scheduled Wednesday from 4-5 p.m. Maximum enrollment in the experimental course will be 50 students.

The course, which begins with the start of fall quarter at UM Sept. 27, will emphasize the development of such legal concepts as the right of privacy, the historical roots of the idea of a social contract, and the growth of the criminal justice system.

Commenting on the new course, Dean Sullivan, who has worked to institute such a course for the last few years, said:

"This will be an experimental project, but we are hopeful that the results will encourage us to establish the course as a permanent addition to the curriculum and develop into something that can be offered more than one quarter during an academic year and to a wider range of students. Law is not the exclusive province of the lawyers, and it is vital that students in all disciplines have an understanding of the important day-to-day role of the law in the functioning of a complex society."

In the summer of 1975, Dean Sullivan and James Talbot, then acting academic vice president at UM, organized an interdisciplinary seminar to discuss the possibility of a program on law for undergraduates at UM. The committee included members of the Law School faculty as well as faculty members from the University's College of Arts and Sciences.

Law and Society, the course that resulted from the law seminar discussions, will attempt to give undergraduate students an understanding of the law and how it developed.

Carl W. Tobias, assistant professor of law, will have the major responsibility for the course, and he will be assisted by Thomas P. Huff, professor of philosophy. John G. Photiades, assistant professor of economics, and Cynthia A. Schuster, professor of philosophy, will lead small discussion groups each week.

Various Law School professors will participate and lecture on their specialties. Prof. A. Stone will discuss the nature and function of contracts. Profs. William F. Crowley and Larry M. Elison, who helped to draft the new Montana Criminal Code, will lecture in the area of criminal law, discussing such topics as the changes in the approach of the Burger court from the Warren court in the protection of individuals accused of crimes.